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Annex

LETTER DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1988 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey to you the following official statement:

"The Government of Portugal has been informed of the joint statement issued by the Governments of Australia and Indonesia at the end of the recent visit by the Minister for Trade and Foreign Affairs of Australia to Jakarta, in which the Governments of Indonesia and Australia indicate their decision to approve the recommendation by Australian and Indonesian high officials at their meeting held on 3 and 4 September 1988. The recommendation is aimed at the future establishment of a global agreement creating a "zone of co-operation" in the maritime area between East Timor and Australia, with a view to exploiting and extracting oil. Such recommendation became, in due time, the object of a Portuguese official statement of protest.

"The intention of the two States to carry out a project which constitutes a flagrant infringement of international law, in clear disregard of United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, and in violation of the legitimate interests of the people of East Timor, a non-autonomous Territory under Portuguese administration, has therefore unfortunately been confirmed at the highest political level.

"Since the Government of the Republic of Indonesia lacks the legitimacy to undertake commitments regarding a territory which it occupies illegally, whose decolonization process is not yet concluded, and which is under the responsibility of Portugal in its capacity as administering Power, the Government of Portugal as of now declares its intention to resort, in due course, to the appropriate international instances with a view to asserting the rights inherent in the people of East Timor, the observance of which Portugal is bound to respect and secure.

Lisbon, 28 October 1988"

(Signed) Fernando REINO
Ambassador of Portugal
Permanent Representative to the
United Nations